Between the Lines

**The Christian Layman's Information Service—
Condensed, Non-Denominational**

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Moving Spotlight

Post-War Cartels for Germany

Just to show you how the monopolistic, big business interests keep their hands on the inside workings of our government, a report now current in Washington indicates that American policy will support the cartel system in conquered, occupied Germany. This policy, friendly to world-wide monopoly, is being shaped up by a group which includes family members and representatives of the du Ponts, House of Morgan, Andrew Mellon interests, the Armours of Chicago, the Astors and others of powerful industrial and banking circles.

Klan Rebirth

A "Commoner" party is being formed in Georgia which gives indications of being committed to the spread of political fascism in that state. This party endorses anti-Semitism and the repeal of the 15th amendment which gives Negroes the right to vote.

Office Workers' Union

An Office Workers' International Union, claiming 32,000 members, recently affiliated with the AFL and is making plans for further growth.

Church and Labor Conferences

A conference attended by church leaders and representatives of the CIO and AFL was held recently in Chicago, under the direction of John Ramsey of the United Steel Workers of America. A committee composed of the church representatives at the conference was formed to outline the relationship between church and industry.

Prayer Wing

A "prayer wing" instituted by men of the Air Transport Command has received wide support both from Army fliers and from civilians. At the last report, nearly 300 persons from all over the world were enrolled in this effort to speed the coming of peace by a daily prayer. One "airman's prayer" reads:

God of the evening, God of the dawn,
God of the morning, God of the light,
Keep our engines strong in flight.
And then, O Lord, let it be Thy will
That there come a day when we need
not kill.

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THERE IS A GROWING DEMAND that a GI be appointed to sit at the San Francisco peace table. Not a brass hat, mind you, but just an ordinary GI out of the mud and blood of the hedgerows of France and Germany or from a Pacific beachhead. However, diplomatic circles comment that the idea is not practical, that someone like Sumner Welles would need to be appointed to advise the GI, lest he be ill at ease and uncomfortable. . . . It wouldn't be the GI who would be uncomfortable. It would be the diplomats and statesmen.

X-Ray and Forecast

Military Victory—Political and Moral Failure

With our hearty rejoicing over great military victories, it is hard for us to face the truth that these victories have come in the midst of political and moral failure. As Christians, however, it is our responsibility to face this fact. Intermittently for the past two years, official propaganda has whooped it up over great political victories leading toward peace achieved at various conferences, and each time in due course it has been subsequently revealed that the truth was far from the official propaganda announcements. Between the Lines has been one of the few sources of information that has been able to keep its readers aware of the unpleasant facts behind the scene—as much as we have regretted the nature of the task.

In spite of our great military achievements, here is the way things stand on the political and moral battlefields of the war: As we forecast over a year ago, Russia, whose cost in war suffering has been greater than any, whose armed power is also greater, is determined to break up the bloc of control Britain has planned to exercise over post-war interests by the commonwealth of nations voting arrangements. All propaganda here is aimed to make us blame Russia for these disturbances; we are not told that Stalin's demand that the Lublin Polish government attend the San Francisco conference is based on the fact that India has been allowed representation with British-picked Indian leaders—there are no free elections in India—to represent British interests for India. In other words, Churchill and Stalin are playing power politics as relentlessly as they have ever been played in history, leaving our leaders humiliatingly exposed between the demand of American ideals at home and their ability to cope with power politics abroad.

Peace Issues

Other tense and delicate problems face the San Francisco peace conference delegates. Some American leaders are still pressing for international control of colonies. We are having to spend blood and billions to recover Dutch and British empire holdings. Can't this blood purchase something more than the restoration of the setup whereby a few exploit the many? While President Roosevelt is well known to favor this idea, many members of our State Department, under Wall Street pressure, are cooperating with London representatives and others to block any such move at San Francisco.

China and "White Supremacy"

The Chinese Chungking delegates at San Francisco will be in an especially difficult situation. They are under pressure from all sides. It seems now that Stalin is determined to do all he can to discredit and weaken the Chiang Kai-shek government and to support the position of the communists in northern China. Moscow is also playing up propaganda, which the west never sees, concerning British and French white supremacy claims in Asia. This propaganda effectively suggests to the millions of Chinese that friendship with Russia and the growth of the communist movement in China will put an end to the old "white supremacy" policy under which China has suffered for centuries. The British, French and Dutch empire leaders are very much disturbed

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Moving Spotlight

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Europe's Churches

A spokesman for the Church Committee on Overseas Relief and Reconstruction declares that European churches, which before the war were of little actual influence, have now become a dynamic element in the everyday life of the people. According to reports received from European religious leaders who spent several years in Nazi internment and prisoner of war camps an outstanding development in the camps was the growth of interfaith understanding and the willingness shown on the part of Catholics and Protestants alike to meet together for reading and discussion periods.

Racialism in Sport

A news item from Chicago reported an outbreak of anti-Semitism during a high school basketball game. The boys on one team were Jewish and during the game they were made the butt of insulting songs and remarks. After the game, the Jewish boys were beaten up, some of them so badly that they had to be hospitalized.

Profits Returned

Nine prominent electric cable manufacturing companies, including Phelps Dodge, Anaconda, General Cable and American Steel and Wire, in the face of government charges of fraud through collusive bidding, have agreed to return to the government all profits above a reasonable return and to accept an audit by the Navy Department. Renegotiation of war contracts held by these nine companies has resulted in the recovery by the government of $100,000,000.

Troublesome Adjustments

A preview of some post-war social problems is being presented to the American public in reports of veterans' maladjustments to civilian and home life. Many young fathers, home from overseas service, are finding it so difficult to adapt themselves to the occasionally all-too-vocal demands of their babies that they have moved to hotels, said Dr. Luther A. Woodward of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene. Dr. Woodward revealed that

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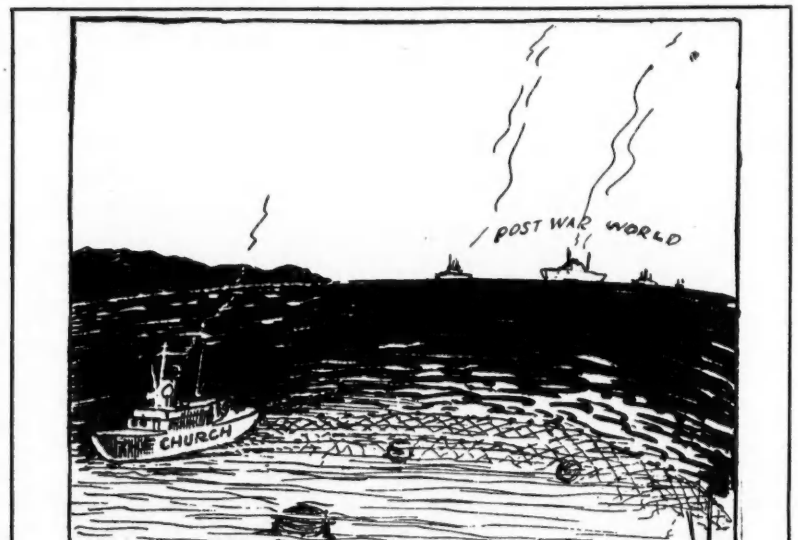
about all of this, but they are helpless. They have only themselves to blame, however, for their policy has been to keep China weak and to that end they have obstructed in every way possible Chiang Kai-shek's efforts to build a stronger China. Now Chiang, very bitter and distrustful of all empire officials, refuses to cooperate with new and desperate efforts to countercheck Moscow's growing hold on China.

Conflict Over Rumania

One place Stalin has cleverly checked Churchill is in handling the crown of Rumania. British interests have been large in Rumania in the past and Churchill has endeavored to safeguard those interests for the future by protecting the Rumanian throne now occupied by King Michael. But Stalin offered Michael Russia's support if he would setup a Cabinet that was pro-Soviet rather than pro-British. Michael has done that willingly, realizing that Britain's assurances meant little. (Look at Poland.) Stalin's deal also meant greater economic justice for Rumania as against the past record of exploitation of Rumania's resources by other outsiders.

Dissension Over the Dardanelles

It is all being kept quiet, but the conflict of interests in the Balkans between Russia and Britain has spread to the Dardanelles where a very tense and difficult issue must be settled before any peace plan can be crystalized. This is believed to be one of the snags that disturbed the conference at Yalta. Russia is demanding free access to Mediterranean waters and Turkey has no alternative but to accede to Russian proposals. London papers are openly denouncing these demands as a grave threat to British security zones. Russian papers are recalling the fact that the British fleet (with our support) blockaded Russia's Black Sea at the Dardanelles in an effort to starve out the communists during the early days of the revolution (1917 to 1921). At that time millions of Russians died of famine. This spreading struggle between Britain and Russia is kept very hush-hush in America, but its long-range significance is apparent to any thoughtful observer.



India Under Britain

Britain continues to suppress news of the disgraceful and desperate plight of millions in India under Empire rule, not only by news censorship but also by doing everything possible to prevent American troops in India from learning anything by contact with Indians and Indian problems. "You can learn more by staying home and reading a book," wrote an air major recently.

Quaker Report

The facts are that conditions in many parts of India are worse than areas under Nazi rule in Europe. Quaker relief reports reveal shameful and heartbreaking conditions that are being kept from the average Englishman and American. The Quakers make it clear that transportation facilities that could alleviate suffering are not used for famine relief, and that most military supply centers in India are chock-full of surplus material.

Here is a factual Quaker report:

First, the war is putting overwhelming strain on India's transportation system. Almost all the high priorities on rail and road transport are taken by the armies for military traffic and supplies. As a result, food supplies cannot be moved on time to deficit areas. Local boat traffic is almost suspended, especially in East Bengal where the network of waterways at the mouth of the Ganges—a vast area—means that normally life is practically amphibious. This is a result of the government's "denial policy," in accordance with which boats were requisitioned from the people (on adequate payment) and destroyed for fear that the Japanese would use them to invade India in 1942 and 1943. Thus fishermen are not able to continue their livelihood.

Second, the war means that India's ablest men are not available to deal with civilian problems; they are in the army, engaged in war work, or detained as dangerous to the war effort.

Politics a Deterrent

Third, the war prevents a solution of the political deadlock and makes cooperation on famine relief difficult. Indian Nationalists, blinded by their desire for freedom, say the government of India is hardened to the sufferings

said Dr. Luther A. Woodward of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene. Dr. Woodward revealed that an alarmingly large percentage of veterans have shown reluctance to return home and have expressed their intention of remaining in seaport cities or metropolitan areas.

Other related problems mentioned by Dr. Woodward are the risks inherent in the hasty war marriages, the fact that the wives of servicemen have perhaps become too used to taking the responsibility for the household and would attempt to "manage" the husband, and the tendency or parents to forget that a boy who has seen action can no longer be treated like an immature lad.

A similar point was made by Mrs. Roosevelt when she said that education and industry would have to "fit what the men need into as short a period as possible" and present the veteran with job opportunities which carried responsibility consistent with the positions of leadership held by many of them during the war.

Returning Negro Soldiers

Negro veterans, returning home for redistribution and rest, are subject to segregation arrangements. Negro leaders are now protesting Army rulings which limit Negro veterans to Harlem's Hotel Theresa and Chicago's Hotel Pershing. White veterans are being sent to any of the 45 hotels maintained by the Army at such resorts as Miami Beach, Hot Springs and Lake Placid. Not only are Negro veterans denied the opportunity for rest and recreation at a resort, but Negro civilians are being deprived of normal accommodations in the overcrowded colored sections of New York and Chicago.

A warning that Negro veterans will present a problem to social and government agencies after the war was voiced recently by Edward S. Lewis of the Urban League of Greater New York. Negro veterans, as well as white, will be suffering from neuroses and mental disturbances, he said, and the lack of mental clinics and Negro psychologists in the country, (there are fewer than six), will make the solution of the problem one "that will demand great resourcefulness and courage."

THE MINE SWEEPERS

There is no escape from the fact that peace cannot go far until hatred and selfishness have been cleared out of the channels of human progress. Right now some world leaders are hoping to muddle through to a stabilized world society without first removing the explosive centers of greed and self-interest which they apparently do not want to see disturbed. But it can't be done. A great spiritual mine sweeping must be accomplished. The religious forces of the world must courageously undertake this task in spite of any evasiveness or opposition from political leadership. Only the church can do this for it is not a political or military task. It is a spiritual need and must be achieved by those instruments and methods of spiritual power and moral discipline which only the church possesses.

Newly-Made Gentleman

Did you see those news photographs of Jewish boys in the United States Army holding Passover services in Dr. Goebbels' home in Muenchen-Gladback, Germany? That should have a wholesome effect on the German population —like the Nazi prisoner who regained consciousness in an American Army hospital in France and was told he had been given a transfusion of Jewish blood. "Now you should be able to behave like a gentleman," he was told by the medics.

Grasshopper Hill

One of the larger and more hopeful aspects of the San Francisco conference will be the influence of western hemisphere solidarity achieved through the Chapultepec inter-American conference in Mexico. This conference was shot through with trade rivalries between American and European interests, and complaints were heard of United States domination and of unity bought by "Yankee Dollars," but in spite of that, the American nations found a unity of faith and purpose that will greatly influence the suspicions and quarrels of the European nations which sit at San Francisco. Good will provides a helpful contrast to the grab and squeeze which has been the traditional policy of European diplomacy for centuries.

Chapultepec proves that it can be done, in spite of the name. For, incidentally, there was quite a flurry in the State Department when it was discovered that Chapultepec means "Grasshopper Hill." What would world diplomats say when it got out that our epic inter-American conference was held on "Grasshopper Hill!" The puns would be multiple and deplorable. But now it seems that people like the idea. The world has had a lot of conferences at solemnly named places like Versailles, Teheran, Cairo, Dumbarton Oaks, the Crimea. Nothing much came of them. But Grasshopper Hill—would any diplomat feel comfortable posing in haughty grandeur on Grasshopper Hill?

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Indian Nationalists, blinded by their desire for freedom, say the government of India is hardened to the sufferings of the people. On the other hand, the government won't admit the extent of the disaster and is unable to rally the people behind efforts to improve things.

Fourth, there are thousands of Allied troops in India or supplied from India who purchase very large supplies of the available meat, fish, fruit and vegetables. Wages have not kept pace with rising prices, and the Indian laborer making from eight to twenty cents a day must eat a very deficient diet.

Fifth, the shipping to India for civilian needs has been drastically cut because of war needs in other theatres. Because of Japanese occupation of Burma, certain coastal areas of India have been unable to be supplied with the normal ten to eighty per cent of rice usually imported.

This report thus reveals that millions live in a miserable state between life and death. Thousands die, hundreds of thousands of children grow into deformed adulthood. All this results from a policy designed to prevent disturbing the political and economic "status quo."

Missionary Ordered Out of India

Missionaries in India today must choose between Christian allegiance and political and imperial allegiance. One American missionary, Ralph Keithan, who with his wife, a doctor, was doing rural welfare work in South India, was ordered to leave India. The Keithans have now returned to the United States. Mr. Keithan shared as much as possible the life of the people he worked with, and his sympathies were apparently too much with the Indian nationals to suit the British authorities.

Food Surplus

Agricultural experts are warning that overproduction will again confront the farmer as soon as European farmers regain normal production. That event is estimated to occur approximately three years from now. Twenty-five million acres have been added to America's production since 1939 and overproduction was acute in America until 1939.

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Youth Fights Wars

Washington officials have been seriously disturbed by a severe storm of anger which seems to be arising among the parents of 18-year-old lads lately drafted into the Army. Thousands of these boys have been killed in action within six months of induction. Bitter and angry letters have poured into the War Department from parents who feel the boys were improperly trained and unnecessarily sacrificed, although the Army defense is that lads of that age are agile, tough and don't need so much training. Parents see thousands of mature, well-trained Army men all over the country in safe jobs and they are asking why there should be this slaughter of the youngsters. About the only answer worried Army officials can give is that this is war, and war has always been largely a matter for youth. We might add that war is the crime of the old against the young. And it is a preventable crime.

Punishment for War Criminals

In spite of all we hear in the press concerning the punishment of Axis war criminals, it is openly conceded in official Washington circles that everything along that line is really a dark secret because of continued disagreement between the Allies over who should be punished and how. The average American newspaper reader is led to believe that all the Fascist chiefs in Italy, all the Nazi leaders in Germany and their industrial cohorts are to be liquidated promptly, along with the extermination of the Japanese leaders.

As we have reported in the past, the inside facts seem to present a very different picture. London is still secretly promoting the reestablishment of the old monarchy in Italy. That monarchy for years fully cooperated with Mussolini and his gang. London and some Wall Street interests are also known to be bringing great pressure to prevent any widespread disturbance of German industrial and financial interests. Those interests backed Hitler from the start. While we hear much talk of destroying in Germany all heavy industry which can be turned to war production, you'll notice that nothing is said of taking these huge industrial plants away from their traditional aristocratic Hitler-sponsoring owners and turning them over to democratically selected representatives of the common people. No, the same old crowd must be kept in control so that their partners in London, Paris and New York will not be disturbed.

The same situation holds true for Japan. Congressional foreign affairs committees have witnessed the exposure of some of these facts although little word is allowed to reach the public. If the people knew how some United Nations leaders were secretly trying to protect and perpetutate the same war-breeding political and economic systems in Europe and Asia, there would be an explosion in this country that would be heard around the world. This betrayal of the people who fight and pay for the wars will have to be exposed and corrected before an enduring peace can be achieved.

Bombs Away!

The National Broadcasting Company announces that news broadcasts will no longer be interrupted by commercial plugs. That will be a big relief. A lot of folks have had a hard time figuring out whether Tokyo was being plastered by B-29's, Super-Suds or liver pills!

The Future for Housing Projects

A tremendous government-sponsored housing program is being planned for the entire country. The Federal Public Housing Authority recently outlined suggestions for the broadest program of public housing, urban development and rural home improvement in the nation's history. Slum clearance will be effected through joint action of Federal and municipal agencies and private investors, and a plan whereby tenant farmers may become owners of up-to-date homes is proposed. Although nothing tangible can be accomplished until the war is over, the decks are being cleared for a quick start when the time comes.

In New York City a housing project to cost between 40 and 50 million dollars is being planned by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. A slum area consisting of more than 500 buildings (more than 3,000 families, 500 stores and factories) will be cleared and modern "garden apartments" erected.

In inaugurating these vast projects by the government in direct cooperation with private capital, a whole new phase of American development begins. In the past, private capital has exploited the slum areas for high rental returns on low maintenance property. This has been one of the financial and moral sins of our time, a sin in which many respected church members shared. For a while the realty organizations that represent private property interests fought all government measures for slum clearance and extensive housing projects, but private capital finally discovered that it would have to cooperate with the government agencies or lose control of the situation entirely. With sane, conscientious guidance, much can be done along this line to bolster America's postwar economy and to build a better life for millions of Americans.

Government-Controlled Communications

Keep an eye on the proposition now being pushed quietly by the Administration to merge all American divisions of international communication including radio, cable, and telephone communications, such as news broadcasts, into one vast government-controlled monopoly. While Republican forces in Congress are marshalling strength to fight the move, we're afraid it is a part of the inevitable widening government control that the war and its consequences will bring to our society.

The Republicans fight the project because they feel that it means dictatorship. The New Deal pushes it because it takes the monopoly out of the hands of private interests which have often been guilty of the exploitation of such powers to selfish gain and public harm.

Our long range forecasts on all such issues have been that the war and its unavoidable results will bring an increasing socialization to the American way of life whether we want it or not. In the final analysis, the nationalization or socialization of our resources will be good or bad according to the character and ideals of the men in control. That is why responsible Christian citizenship must be increasingly felt in our national life or we shall be heading for trouble.

Democracy in Operation

California government officials, both state and federal, are doing all possible to prevent Nazi-minded hoodlums and vandals from harassing or molesting the thousand or so Japanese-American families which have returned to their west coast homes since the exclusion bars were lifted. Twenty-four cases of violence have been reported to the authorities and Attorney General Robert Kenney warned a group of California sheriffs that their duty is uphold the law and to protect the nisei. He reminded these officials that, under the cover of darkness, shots had been fired into Japanese-American homes and that another returned evacuee, who has three sons in the United States Army, had been threatened. The Attorney General asked, "Are not these activities more reminiscent of Ku Klux Klans than of our much-vaunted 1945 methods of protection of rights and maintenance of peace?"

Since delegates from all over the world, from Asia, from Europe, from Africa, from the Americas, will be attending the San Francisco conference this month, the Attorney General pointed out that:

"American citizenship with its attributes of fearlessness, self assurance and dignity, means much to the hearts of men who have suffered under the Nazi and Nipponese yokes. We must, therefore, make absolutely sure that nothing interferes with the welcome we extend—that nothing occurs in California to mar the impression on our guests of democracy in operation."